

without an increase in the maximum Pell Grant; and for the elderly who depend on LIHEAP to help pay for the rising cost of home heating oil.

Initiatives funded in this bill literally make a life-or-death difference in the lives of countless individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. While we could have done much more with the cooperation of the President, the work that we have accomplished together in this final product will help make America more secure and will improve the lives of millions throughout the world.

In closing, I would like to thank our staff for their tireless work, and their many sleepless nights as they put together this final product. Nisha Desai, and her new baby Safya, Craig Higgins, Michele Sumilas, Steve Marchese, Lucy Heenan, Celia Alvarado, and our minority staff Christine Kojac, Rob Blair and Molly Miller. Lastly, I would like to thank Cherith Norman, as she prepares the leave the State Department, for her years of outstanding work with this Committee.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 893, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 272, nays 142, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 1186]

YEAS—272

Aderholt	Brown-Waite,	Dicks
Akin	Ginny	Dingell
Alexander	Buchanan	Donnelly
Altmire	Burgess	Doolittle
Bachmann	Burton (IN)	Drake
Bachus	Buyer	Dreier
Baird	Calvert	Edwards
Baker	Camp (MI)	Ehlers
Barrett (SC)	Campbell (CA)	Ellsworth
Barrow	Cannon	Emanuel
Bartlett (MD)	Cantor	Emerson
Barton (TX)	Capito	English (PA)
Bean	Carney	Etheridge
Berkley	Carter	Everett
Berman	Castle	Fallin
Berry	Chabot	Feeney
Biggert	Chandler	Ferguson
Bilbray	Clyburn	Flake
Bilirakis	Coble	Forbes
Bishop (GA)	Cole (OK)	Fortenberry
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Fossella
Blackburn	Cooper	Fox
Blunt	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Boehner	Cramer	Frelinghuysen
Bonner	Crenshaw	Galleghy
Bono	Cuellar	Garrett (NJ)
Boozman	Culberson	Gerlach
Boren	Davis (AL)	Giffords
Boucher	Davis (CA)	Gillibrand
Boustany	Davis (KY)	Gingrey
Boyd (FL)	Davis, David	Gohmert
Boyd (KS)	Davis, Lincoln	Gonzalez
Brady (TX)	Davis, Tom	Goode
Brown (GA)	Deal (GA)	Goodlatte
Brown (SC)	Dent	Gordon
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, L.	Granger
	Diaz-Balart, M.	Graves

Green, Gene	McCarthy (CA)	Ruppersberger
Hall (TX)	McCaul (TX)	Rush
Hastings (WA)	McCotter	Ryan (WI)
Hayes	McCrery	Salazar
Heller	McHenry	Sali
Hensarling	McHugh	Saxton
Hergert	McIntyre	Schmidt
Herseth Sandlin	McKeon	Schwartz
Hill	McMorris	Scott (GA)
Hinojosa	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Hobson	Melancon	Sessions
Hoekstra	Mica	Sestak
Holden	Miller (FL)	Shadegg
Hoyer	Miller (MI)	Shays
Hulshof	Mitchell	Shimkus
Hunter	Mollohan	Shuler
Inglis (SC)	Moore (KS)	Shuster
Issa	Moran (KS)	Simpson
Johnson (IL)	Murphy, Tim	Skelton
Johnson, Sam	Murtha	Smith (NE)
Jones (NC)	Musgrave	Smith (NJ)
Jordan	Myrick	Smith (TX)
Kanjorski	Neugebauer	Snyder
Keller	Nunes	Souder
Kildee	Pearce	Space
Kind	Pence	Spratt
King (IA)	Peterson (MN)	Stearns
King (NY)	Peterson (PA)	Sullivan
Kingston	Petri	Tancredo
Kirk	Pickering	Tanner
Kline (MN)	Pitts	Taylor
Knollenberg	Platts	Terry
Kuhl (NY)	Poe	Thornberry
LaHood	Pomeroy	Tiahrt
Lamborn	Porter	Tiberi
Lampson	Price (GA)	Turner
Larsen (WA)	Pryce (OH)	Udall (CO)
Latham	Putnam	Upton
LaTourette	Radanovich	Visclosky
Latta	Ramstad	Walberg
Levin	Regula	Walden (OR)
Lewis (CA)	Rehberg	Walsh (NY)
Lewis (KY)	Reichert	Walz (MN)
Linder	Renzi	Wamp
LoBiondo	Reyes	Weldon (FL)
Lucas	Reynolds	Westmoreland
Lungren, Daniel	Rodriguez	Whitfield (KY)
E.	Rogers (AL)	Wicker
Lynch	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (NM)
Mack	Rogers (MI)	Wilson (OH)
Mahoney (FL)	Rohrabacher	Wilson (SC)
Manzullo	Ros-Lehtinen	Wittman (VA)
Marchant	Roskam	Wolf
Marshall	Ross	Young (AK)
Matheson	Royce	Young (FL)

NAYS—142

Abercrombie	Frank (MA)	Meeks (NY)
Ackerman	Green, Al	Michaud
Allen	Grijalva	Miller (NC)
Andrews	Gutierrez	Miller, George
Arcuri	Hall (NY)	Moore (WI)
Baca	Hare	Moran (VA)
Baldwin	Harman	Murphy (CT)
Becerra	Higgins	Murphy, Patrick
Bishop (NY)	Hinchee	Nadler
Blumenauer	Hirono	Napolitano
Boswell	Hodes	Neal (MA)
Brady (PA)	Holt	Oberstar
Braley (IA)	Honda	Obey
Butterfield	Inslee	Olver
Capps	Israel	Pallone
Capuano	Jackson (IL)	Pascarell
Cardoza	Jackson-Lee	Payne
Carnahan	(TX)	Perlmutter
Castor	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
Clarke	Jones (OH)	Rahall
Clay	Kagen	Rangel
Cleaver	Kaptur	Richardson
Cohen	Kennedy	Rothman
Conyers	Kilpatrick	Roybal-Allard
Costello	Klein (FL)	Ryan (OH)
Courtney	Langevin	Sanchez, Linda
Crowley	Lantos	T.
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Sanchez, Loretta
Davis (IL)	Lee	Sarbanes
DeFazio	Lewis (GA)	Schakowsky
DeGette	Lipinski	Schiff
Delahunt	Loeb sack	Scott (VA)
DeLauro	Loftgren, Zoe	Serrano
Doggett	Lowey	Shea-Porter
Doyle	Maloney (NY)	Sherman
Duncan	Matsui	Sires
Ellison	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter
Engel	McCollum (MN)	Smith (WA)
Eshoo	McDermott	Solis
Farr	McGovern	Stark
Fattah	McNerney	Stupak
Filner	Meek (FL)	Sutton

Tauscher	Velázquez	Weiner
Thompson (MS)	Wasserman	Welch (VT)
Tierney	Schultz	Wu
Towns	Waters	Wynn
Tsongas	Watson	Yarmuth
Udall (NM)	Watt	
Van Hollen	Waxman	

NOT VOTING—18

Cubin	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor
Gilchrest	Kucinich	Paul
Hastings (FL)	Markey	Thompson (CA)
Hooley	McNulty	Weller
Jefferson	Miller, Gary	Wexler
Jindal	Ortiz	Woolsey

□ 1726

Mr. WYNN, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. DeLAURO and Ms. ESHOO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DOOLITTLE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to personal medical reasons, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall Nos.: 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, and 1186.

#### REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following members on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2009:

Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew, District of Columbia

Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler, Great Falls, Virginia

□ 1730

#### DON'T PLAY POLITICAL GAMES WITH VETERANS FUNDING

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, today we completed work on an omnibus spending bill

Hopefully, by Friday, a full 82 days into the fiscal year, our Nation's veterans will finally have access to the \$6.7 billion in increased spending, and the new and expanded programs included in the original veterans bill, a bill that passed the House and Senate this summer.

For all of these days, our veterans have done without these additional resources.

So why the delay? Why were our veterans made to wait when a nearly identical bill could have been passed and signed by the President prior to October 1?

I believe our veterans deserve an explanation and an apology. Playing political games with veterans funding not only hurts our veterans but the credibility of this Congress and the American people. Our Nation and its heroes deserve better.

#### EXPLOITS OF MIKE FLYNT

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, last August a man named Mike Flynt attempted to use his final year of college eligibility by walking on at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. He endured the rigors of two-a-days and made the team. Although a nagging groin injury prevented him from participating in games through the first half of the season, his leg healed to the point that he could participate in several games on special teams and, in the final game of the season, played at linebacker for the final defensive series.

Mr. Speaker, so far, this story is not unusual. However, Mike Flynt's story is unique in that he will turn 60 years of age next year. Mike and I graduated from high school together and played on the first State championship team at Odessa Permian.

Mike fulfilled a 30-year desire to compete one more time in a game he loves. His efforts and accomplishments amaze us all. He was an inspiration to his teammates, coaches and fellow Sul Ross students. His efforts brought positive publicity to a small university in far west Texas.

Mr. Speaker, in a world where athletes often seem to let us down, it's refreshing to see the example of hard work, dedication and perseverance that is Mike Flynt.

#### THE GRINCH WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Christmas will be here in less than 1 week. Most of us will be with people that are very important to us.

But not so for Border Agents Ramos and Compean who are locked up tonight for protecting the Texas-Mexico border from smugglers, especially an admitted drug smuggler. These agents are in prison for their failure to fill out proper paperwork after shooting this drug smuggler bringing in \$1 million worth of dope to the United States.

The U.S. Attorneys Office made a backroom deal with the drug smuggler

for his testimony, and even the U.S. Attorneys Office admits that he told some lies. Be that as it may, our government was on the wrong side of the border war in this case.

The border agents should be freed by Christmas and put the drug dealer in jail. So there will not be justice this Christmas for our border agents because the U.S. Attorneys Office is obviously the grinch who stole Christmas from our border agents.

And that's just the way it is.

#### IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST MATTHEW KYLE REECE, U.S. ARMY

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise solemnly this afternoon to memorialize one of my constituents who's been described as one who makes this country great. I rise to remember Army Specialist Matthew Kyle Reece of Jasper, who passed away in Iraq in December of 2007.

Kyle Reece was born in Harrison and went to school in Jasper and Alpena. He fished, played ball and prayed while growing up in Newton County. His name can be seen in the Alpena gym, marking two championship teams, and his name will long be remembered for the duty he performed on behalf of his country, his friends and his family.

Kyle was a grenadier in the 82nd Airborne who deeply cared for the men in his charge. He accepted his duty proudly, telling his 3-year-old daughter before he left that he had to go to Iraq so she and everyone else in the U.S. could remain free.

There's no way we can adequately thank Kyle, or his family, for his service. However, I will take to heart the words of his wife, Chauntelle, who urges that we not wait until a soldier dies before we honor him. Rather, we should shake their hands and thank them for all that they do for America.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOYCE HAMLETT: A WOMAN CONTINUING TO BLAZE NEW TRAILS AS KEEPER OF THE MACE

(Mr. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to one of our great House employees here that works in this Chamber every day, and that's Joyce Hamlett.

Joyce has had the opportunity to be appointed as Assistant Sergeant at Arms in charge of the mace of the House of Representatives. I think this is a very high accomplishment for someone like Ms. Hamlett who has a meek-like spirit and very nice lady, and I've been working with her, and she's been working not only with me but my mother and other Members that have served here in the House.

She's the first African American woman to serve as keeper of the mace.

Her high moral upbringing prepares her for this honorable position.

Mr. Speaker, I can go further, and I do as it relates to my CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement, but we honor not only her presence here, but we honor the fact that she gives God all of the grace and the glory for her accomplishments here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker and Members of Congress, as a Member of Congress, I am moved by Ms. Joyce Hamlett's trust in patience, trust in truth and trust that God has planned a great path for her life.

I rise to ask you to join me in recognizing the excellent service and continued professional success of Ms. Joyce Hamlett, newly appointed Assistant Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressional business begins when the Mace is set, and ends when it is lifted.

There is one woman with the great responsibility to ensure that the Mace is available for this historical purpose.

And, in times of emergency, one woman guards the Mace and preserves its protection.

Ms. Joyce Hamlett is the first African American woman to serve as the Keeper of the Mace. Her moral upbringing prepared her for this honorable position.

Ms. Hamlett was raised by her grandfather in a church community that fostered the importance of honesty and faith.

Indeed, Ms. Hamlett's strong heritage has served as the guiding force throughout her career on Capitol Hill.

In the early 1980s, Ms. Hamlett departed Broadway, North Carolina and began her successful professional journey alongside her mother, Betty Pearson, at the Capitol Café.

Within five years, Ms. Hamlett rose to cook for lawmakers upstairs in the Capitol Hill restaurant.

Her respectable interaction with lawmakers continued when she went on to serve as elevator operator under the Architect of the Capitol. During that time, she formed long-lasting friendships with many Members of Congress.

In the early 1990s, Ms. Hamlett interviewed for the position of chamber security, and soon after began to firmly enforce House rules on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

As chamber security, she was well-known as one who worked hard to safeguard the principles and rich tradition of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Because of her excellent service, Ms. Hamlett was promoted to her current position as Keeper of the Mace.

Ms. Hamlett is not only Keeper of the Mace, but she is also keeper of a strong moral foundation and keeper of the wisdom and principle represented by the Mace's solid-silver eagle.

Mr. Speaker and Members of Congress, I congratulate Ms. Joyce Hamlett, a woman that continues to blaze new trails with distinction as Assistant Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and Members of Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). The Chair will recognize